

New brochure explores learning disability issues

A new brochure, "Gallaudet University: Learning Disability Guidelines," has been published to help faculty, staff, and administrators identify and work with students who may have learning disabilities.

The phrase "learning disabilities," states the brochure, refers to a group of disorders that show up as students acquire and use listening, speaking, reading, writing, reasoning, or mathematical skills. Students with learning disabilities may exhibit one or more of a host of characteristics, including poor performance in one academic area despite adequate or superior achievement in others and difficulty with social perception, problem solving, motor coordination, following directions, time management, and organization.

According to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, colleges and universities must make reasonable accommodations in their academic program to allow students with learning disabilities to participate fully. However, two leaders in producing the guidelines, Cathy Baechle, an educational diagnostician with Diagnostic and Support Services at the Northwest Campus, and Dr. Robert Williams, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, stressed that these students also should have equal access to achieving high grades. If the student could have had an "A" with services but received a "C" due to a lack of accommodation to his or her disability, then that's not equal access, they said.

Identifying and serving students with learning disabilities also fits in with the University's Vision Statement, said Baechle. Gallaudet is helping these students acquire skills that will help them learn both inside and outside the classroom, she said. In addition, students with learning disabilities form a very diverse group, and serving them is part of reaching Gallaudet's goal to embrace diversity.

So far, feedback from the guidelines is positive, said Baechle. "[The faculty] feel that the brochure helps them understand what their responsibilities are under Section 504," she said. "It also helps them learn about the referral process here on campus." Baechle hopes the guidelines will heighten people's awareness of learning disabilities and help her office identify more of these students.

About two years in the making, the guidelines were written with input from the Psychology Department, the Counseling Center, the Office for Students with Disabilities, the Tutorial Center, and Academic Advising. Deans,

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Left: A large crowd fills the HMB atrium April 6 for a festive ceremony rededicating the building. Right: President Jordan and Dr. Mary Malzkubn share the excitement of the day after unveiling plaques bearing the names of distinguished faculty members. Malzkubn and Dr. Catherine Andersen (left) are among the distinguished faculty members named by the University president.



Hall Memorial Building rededicated at April 6 ceremony

At an April 6 rededication ceremony for the freshly renovated Hall Memorial Building, Gallaudet President I. King Jordan confided to a near-capacity crowd gathered in the new atrium that the occasion was particularly gratifying for him, considering all the false starts that the project has had over the years.

Dr. Jordan said that during the past decade he served on two HMB renovation committees when he was a faculty member in the Psychology Department and once again on a renovation task force for the building when he was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Each time, the plans fell through.

"This is really a pleasure for me," said Jordan, with a note of enthusiasm reminiscent of the May 20, 1991, ground breaking for the HMB project when he also recounted the

frustrations of the failed attempts to renovate the building and proclaimed as he turned the first shovel of turf, "Today, the construction *will* begin!"

Jordan remarked that even the distinct smell of HMB, which he recalls from his years as a Gallaudet student up to his presidency, has changed. "This fall, I came in and HMB has a very different smell. I'm kind of disappointed!" he joked.

Jordan extended his thanks to Vice President for Institutional Advancement Margarete Hall and the Development Office staff for their efforts in raising funds to help finance the \$17.7 million project. The federal government supplied \$7.5 million toward the construction, \$5.1 million came from donations, including the \$750,000 pledge from the Kresge Foundation, and the remainder came from University plant funds.

The festive rededication ceremony

provided an opportunity for Gallaudet students and employees, past and present, and for friends of the University to mingle and to swap stories of life at the old HMB. For those who worked in the building during the construction, it was an opportunity to swap tales of the trials and tribulations of working and studying in a construction zone for three years.

Among the guests at the celebration were Jonathan Hall and his wife, Aileen, both of whom are former Gallaudet educators. Hall, who taught biology and other science courses at the University from the 1940s through the 1960s, is the youngest son of Gallaudet's second president, Dr. Percival Hall, for whom HMB is named.

The celebration ended with the unveiling of plaques bearing the names of distinguished faculty members.



Award recipients at the University's 130th Charter Day celebration April 9 are (from left) Albert Couthen ('66), the Laurent Clerc Award; Carin Storch-Freedel (G'84), the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award; Vladimir Galchenko, the Amos Kendall Award; Igor Abramov, the Edward Miner Gallaudet Award; Matthew Moore, the Alice Cogswell Award; and Royal Teets ('58), the Pauline "Polly" Peikoff "Service to Others" Award.

Meetings set on communication

Three town hall meetings have been scheduled for members of the campus community to express their opinions about what effective communication is.

The dates, times, and locations of the meetings are:

- April 19, 4:30-6 p.m., Ely Auditorium
- April 20, noon to 1:30 p.m., Ely Auditorium
- April 21, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Northwest Campus Cafeteria.

The meetings will be moderated by Dr. Jack Gannon and Dr. Bette Martin, special assistants to President I. King Jordan, who are leading a campus-wide assessment of what constitutes effective communication. The information will be used in preparing a statement clarifying effective communication at the University.

Announcements

In recognition of Professional Secretaries' Day, the President and the President's Council are sponsoring a reception on April 27 from 3 to 5 p.m. in Chapel Hall. Wealthy Wrighttaylor, corresponding secretary for the Delaware-Maryland-District of Columbia Division of Professional Secretaries International, will speak at 3:30 p.m. on professionalism in the workplace and preparing for career advancement.

The School of Communication is sponsoring a Student Forum April 28, 2-5 p.m., and April 29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in EMG, Room 113. Graduate students taking the course "Sociolinguistics of the Deaf Community" will present papers on standardization and prescriptivism in American Sign Language. Joseph Murray and Ralena McDevitt, winners of the new ASL PAH! Undergraduate Research Award, will present their project comparing ASL use in two groups of signers in Springfield, Mass. For information, contact Betsy Winston in the Department of Linguistics and Interpreting or E-mail EAWINSTON.

Dr. Sharon Harley, director of African-American studies at the University of Maryland, will speak on mul-

ticulturalism in the university curriculum and how Gallaudet can work toward implementing this concept on April 25 from 1-4 p.m. in the cafeteria. The talk is open to the campus. Refreshments will be served.

The Gallaudet chapter of the American Association of University Professors invites the campus community to a lecture/discussion and social hour April 20 at 3 p.m. in "Ole Jim." Robert Kaiser of the National AAUP Office will present "Shared Governance, Academic Program Review and Downsizing."

"Inclusion: Defining Quality Education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students," sponsored by Gallaudet, will be held Oct. 26-28 during Homecoming weekend at the Omni Shoreham. Proposals for presentations are being solicited on the following topics: legislative/legal issues, advocacy, and quality education: factors for success. The conference will be co-sponsored by Pre-College Programs, the College for Continuing Education, the American Society for Deaf Children, and the National Association of Private Schools for Exceptional Children. For more information, contact Dave Frank, x5733.

Retired educator Philip Schmitt dies

Dr. Philip Schmitt, recently retired from the Department of Education, died March 25 at his home in Greenbelt, Md.

Funeral services took place on April 4 in his family's hometown, Milwaukee, Wisc. A memorial service will be held April 22 at 3:15 p.m. in Chapel Hall.

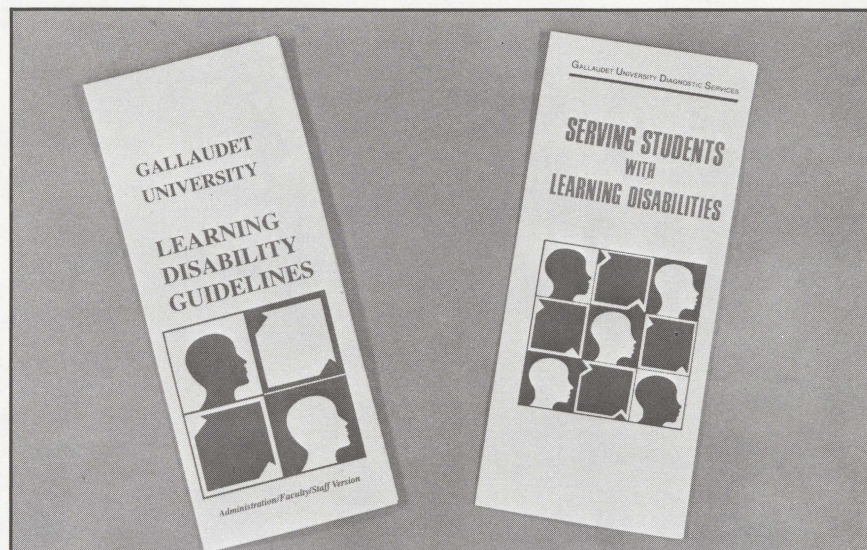
Schmitt worked 34 years in the field of educating deaf children, including 22 years at Gallaudet, where he was a faculty member in the Department of Education from 1971-93 and served as chair from 1971-77. As chair, Schmitt played a crucial role in obtaining federal funding for the teacher preparation program and in the accreditation of the program by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Council on Education of the Deaf.

During the 1980s, Schmitt and Dean of the School of Education and Human Services David Martin were instrumental in establishing and fostering cooperative and supportive alliances with teacher preparation and school programs for deaf children in China. Through the USA/China Teacher Education Consortium, of which Gallaudet was a founding member, Schmitt helped establish a sister institution agreement with a teacher education program in Liaoning Province and participated in the visits of many Chinese delegations to the United States.

Prior to his career at Gallaudet, Schmitt served as deaf education coordinator for the Division of Training Programs at the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped, U.S. Office of Education, from 1968-1971. As the coordinator of Training Programs for Teachers of the Deaf in the U.S. Department of Education, Bureau of Education for the Handicapped (now the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services), Schmitt administered the review and funding of all teacher preparation programs in the United States.

Schmitt's other professional activities included service as president of the Wisconsin Teachers of the Deaf, editor of the *Journal of Childhood Communication Disorders*, and editor of the journal of Mu Iota Sigma, a professional fraternity of educators of deaf students. Schmitt chaired the First Year Language Curriculum Committee that served as the foundation for Project Life within Captioned Films for the Deaf, and chaired the Panel of Educational Technology in Education of the Deaf.

The family requests that anyone wishing to may contribute to the Philip J. Schmitt Memorial Fund, which will benefit students and faculty through scholarships and special lectureships. Checks may be made out to Gallaudet, with a notation that they are in memory of Schmitt, and sent to the Development Office.



The guidelines (left) clarify Gallaudet's responsibility to students with learning disabilities. Diagnostic and Support Services is described in the brochure at right.

Brochure identifies learning disabilities

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faculty, and the Academic Affairs Management Team also reviewed the guidelines.

Currently, the University has 29 students with identified learning disabilities on Kendall Green and six at the Northwest Campus. Diagnostic and Support Services, which serves both campuses, evaluates students for learning disabilities who are referred by a faculty or staff member.

The number of students with learning disabilities at Gallaudet has remained stable over the years and is consistent with national statistics of hearing students with learning disabilities, said Baechle and Williams.

"We're always going to have people who arrive here without being diagnosed with learning disabilities," said Williams. "Often bright students are able to get through high school because it's less challenging. When they arrive at Gallaudet and begin taking university-level courses, it brings their difficulty to the fore and may begin to set up barriers to their being able to demonstrate their full potential." For other students with undiagnosed learning

disabilities, added Baechle, school has always been a struggle.

Accommodations for students with learning disabilities may include giving the student more time to complete a test, changing a test format from multiple choice to essay or from written to signed, and/or special tutoring. In addition, Gallaudet offers special course sections in foreign languages and Algebra II designed for students with learning disabilities. "Some students are looking for waivers [from classes], but waivers are rare here," said Williams, who is responsible for granting waivers for CAS courses.

Pam Rush, former school psychologist at the NWC, was co-author of the guidelines with Baechle. In addition, Harry Markowicz, associate professor of English, and Dr. Cristina Berdichevsky, assistant professor of foreign languages and literatures, have helped educate Gallaudet faculty and staff about learning disabilities. Anyone who has not received a copy of the brochure may request one through the Office for Students with Disabilities, x5256.

Classified Ads

Classified ads are printed for Gallaudet faculty and staff. Ads must be submitted in writing in person or by mail to *On the Green*, MSSD, Room G-37. Off-campus phone numbers must include an area code and whether the number is voice or TTY. In compliance with the Education of the Deaf Act of 1992, as amended, payment of \$1 per ad per printing must accompany each ad. Ads received April 18-22 will be printed May 2.

FOR SALE: 3-4 BR house inside beltway, good neighborhood, close to I-95, BW Pkwy. and New Carrollton Metro, paid \$129,000, asking \$125,000. Will consider reasonable offers. Call Donna Morere, (301) 306-0049 (V/TTY) eves./weekends, x5540 or x4601, or E-mail DAMORERE.

FOR SALE: Black German shepherd puppies, AKC registered, some w/light brown legs, BO. Call Tonya (301) 459-6647 (V) eves, or E-mail TLLANDIS.

FOR RENT: 2-BR apt. in Greenbelt, Md., to share w/nonsmoking adult, own BR and bath, swimming/spa privileges, \$350/mo. incl. elec. E-mail EMROBBINSHAL or call Frankel, (301) 794-7067 (V/TTY) 9 a.m.-noon.

FOR RENT: 1-BR apt. on Montello Ave. NE, walk to campus, \$395/mo. plus util; 1 or 2-BR apts. near PG. Community College, priv. patio entrance, cable ready, yard, \$600/mo. incl. util. Call (301) 499-7219 (V).

FOR SALE: Townhouse, BW Pkwy/NASA area, 3 BRs, 2 1/2 baths, walkout basement, deck, fenced yard, fireplace, \$135,900. Call (301) 345-5150 (TTY) 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. or 6-8:30 p.m.

FOR RENT: BR w/priv. bath, walk-in closet, small storage, kitchen and W/D privileges, parking, Greenbelt/NASA area, \$350/mo. plus 1/3 util. Call x5754 or E-mail RACOREY.

FOR SALE: W/D in working cond., \$100/BO. Call x5466, (703) 998-0470, or E-mail DHWYNNE.

FOR SALE: Couch (new), lounge chair, swivel chair, luggage, w/wheels. Call Dot, (301) 270-6316 (TTY) after 7 p.m. or (202) 501-3011 (TTY) 8 a.m.-noon or 2-4 p.m.

FOR RENT: BR of 3-BR apt., 1 bath, W/D, CAC, we pay phone and cable, \$225/mo. Call Dot, (301) 270-6316 (TTY) after 7 p.m. or (202) 501-3011 (TTY) 8 a.m.-noon or 2-4 p.m.

Job Openings

Some of the advertised positions may already be filled. The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 (V) or x5359 (TTY).

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR/RECRUITER: Recruitment Office

SALES MANAGER/SALES COORDINATOR: Gallaudet University Conference Center

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Gallaudet University Conference Center

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